

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph spanning page 15, line 27, to page 16, line 11, to read as follows:

-- As used herein, the terms " α -amino acid" and " α -amino acid residue" designate any and all natural and unnatural α -amino acids and their respective residues (*i.e.*, the form of the amino acid when incorporated into a polypeptide molecule), without limitation. Thus, " α -amino acid" explicitly encompasses the conventional and well-known naturally occurring amino acids, ~~as well as all synthetic variations, derivatives, and analogs thereof~~. The term " α -amino acid" thus encompasses, without limitation, alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine. Illustrative α -amino acids also include analogs such as N-methylated α -amino acids, hydroxylated α -amino acids, and the like. An exemplary list of modified or unusual α -amino acids that can be used in the present invention include (without limitation): N-alkyl α -amino acids (such as N-methyl glycine), hydroxylysine, 3-hydroxyproline, 4-hydroxyproline, nor-valine, nor-leucine, ornithine, and the like. --